What is claimed is:

1. A signal-to-text conversion gateway comprising:

a receiver that receives signals from a source;

a converter that converts some received said signals into a change of a current conversion mode of the converter, and converts other received said signals into a first or a second type of characters depending on the current conversion mode of the converter; and

a transmitter that transmits the characters to a destination;

the converter being responsive to a signal received from the destination by changing the converter's said current conversion mode for converting the signals received from the source.

2. The gateway of claim 1 wherein:

the signals received from the source comprise teletype tones;

the first type of characters comprises letters; and

the second type of characters comprises figures.

3. A method of converting signals into text, comprising:

receiving signals from a source;

converting some received signals into a change of a current conversion mode;

converting other received signals into a first or a second type of characters, depending on the current conversion mode;

transmitting the characters to a destination; and

in response to receiving a signal from the destination, changing the current conversion mode for converting the signals received from the source.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein:

the signals received from the source comprise teletype tones;

the first type of characters comprises letters; and

the second type of characters comprises figures.

5. An end-user device comprising:

a receiver that receives a first type or a second type of characters;

a presenting device that presents the received characters to a user; and

a converter that responds to a signal by converting the received one of the first and the second type of characters into the other of the first and the second type of characters and causes the presenting device to present to the user the converted characters instead of the received characters.

6. The end-user device of claim 5 wherein:

the first type of characters comprises letters;

the second type of characters comprises figures; and

the converter converts letters having teletype signal representations into figures having same said teletype signal representations, and vice versa.

7. The end-user device of claim 6 wherein:

the converter receives the signal from the user.

8. The end-user device of claim 7 wherein:

the user generates the signal upon being presented with a nonsensical sequence of characters.

9. The end-user device of claim 6 wherein:

the signal is generated automatically by the end-user device.

10. The end-user device of claim 9 wherein:

the end-user device generates the signal in response to analyzing a sequence of the presented characters and determining that the analyzed character sequence is nonsensical.

11. A method of operating an end-user device comprising:

receiving a first type or a second type of characters;

presenting the received characters to a user;

in response to receiving a signal, converting the received one of the first and the second type of characters into the other of the first and the second type of characters; and

presenting the converted characters to the user instead of the received characters.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein:

the first type of characters comprises letters;

the second type of characters comprises figures; and

converting comprises

converting letters having teletype signal representations into figures having same said teletype signal representations, and vice versa.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein:

converting comprises

receiving the signal from the user.

14. The method of claim 13 further comprising:

the user being presented with a nonsensical sequence of characters; and

in response, the user initiating the signal.

15. The method of claim 12 wherein:

converting comprises

the end-user device automatically generating the signal.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein:

generating the signal comprises

the end-user device analyzing a sequence of the received characters; and

the end-user device analyzing a sequence of the received characters; and

in response to determining that the analyzed character sequence is nonsensical, the end-user device generating the signal.

17. An end-user device comprising:

a receiver that receives a first type or a second type of characters from a converter that converts first signals into the first or the second type of characters, depending on a current conversion mode of the converter:

a presenting device that presents the received characters to a user; and

a transmitter that responds to input from the user by transmitting a second signal to the converter that causes the converter to change the converter's said current conversion mode for converting the first signals.

18. The device of claim 17 wherein:

the first signals comprise teletype tones;

the first type of characters comprises letters; and

the second type of characters comprises figures.

19. The device of claim 18 wherein:

the user generates the input in response to being presented with a nonsensical sequence of characters.

20. A method of operating an end-user device comprising:

receiving a first type or a second type of characters from a converter that converts first signals into the first or the second type of characters, depending on a current conversion mode of the converter;

presenting the received characters to a user;

in response to input from the user, transmitting a second signal to the converter that causes the converter to change the converter's said current conversion mode for converting the first signals.

21. The method of claim 20 wherein:
the first signals comprise teletype tones;
the first type of characters comprises letters; and
the second type of characters comprises figures.

22. The method of claim 21 further comprising:
the user generating the input in response to being presented with a nonsensical sequence of characters.